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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

TAN, ALVIN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/26/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/825,560

Applicant(s)

AREND ET AL.

Examiner

Alvin H. Tan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-13 and 15-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-13, 15-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. Claims 1-3, 5-13, and 16-21 have been examined and rejected. This Office action is responsive to the amendment filed on 9/14/07, which has been entered in the above identified application.

Specification

2. The correction(s) to the specification have been approved, and the objections to the specification are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 4 and 14 have been canceled and thus, the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are withdrawn.
4. The correction(s) to claims 1-3, 5-13, and 16-21 have been approved, and the previous rejections to claims 1-3, 5-13, and 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are withdrawn.
5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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6. Claims 1-3, 5-13, and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a. Claims 1, 11, and 21 recite the limitation "the role" in *[line 8]* of claim 1, *[line 9]* of claim 11, and *[line 7]* of claim 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 11, 12, 15-17, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dazey et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,415), herein after Dazey, and Cunningham et al (Pub. No. US 2007/0129953 A1).

Claims 1, 2, 5-7 (User Interface)

Claims 11, 12, 15-17 (Method)

Claim 21 (Computer Readable Medium)

8-1. Regarding claims 1, 11, and 21, Dazey teaches the claim comprising a first pane for displaying instructions to a user regarding the task, by disclosing a technique for

offering help content to a computer user who operates a computer application in a graphical user interface windowing environment *[column 2, lines 11-13]*. Help content is provided in a help pane 70 *[figure 4]* that is part of the graphical window *[column 4, lines 46-61]*.

Dazey teaches a second pane for displaying a content form and receiving input from the user into the content form, wherein the content form displays only a subset of available data objects relating to the task, by disclosing a workspace 50 *[figure 4]* which contains content such as a publication, word processing document, spreadsheet workbook, or database page *[column 4, lines 8-15]*.

Dazey teaches a third pane for displaying actions related to the task, by disclosing a side toolbar 60 *[figure 4]* which contains multiple control buttons specific to the application *[column 4, lines 33-38]*.

Dazey does not expressly teach wherein at least some fields in the content form are pre-filled with data generated based on the particular task and a role of the user within an organization. Cunningham teaches a method for managing business intelligence content of an organization *[paragraph 7]*. Recipients of business intelligence content along with steps indicating a task to be performed by the recipient user are identified. Steps may be identified based on a user's role within the organization *[paragraphs 9, 10]*. These steps can be presented to a user in various forms, such as a link to a pre-filled electronic form *[paragraph 25]*. Thus, the pre-filled electronic form would be based on the task and role of a particular user. Pre-filling data based on a task and a role of the user helps the user more easily complete the task. Since Dazey

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teaches offering help to users in completing a task [*column 2, lines 11-24*], it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow for the pre-filling of data in a content form based on a particular task and a role of the user, as taught by Cunningham. This would help the user more easily complete the task.

8-2. Regarding claims 2 and 12, Dazey and Cunningham teach the claim further comprising a fourth pane for displaying one or more core functions and receiving a user's selection of core functions, by disclosing a pane containing control buttons 56 which assist the user in performing routine tasks on the publication [*column 4, lines 16-23*].

8-3. Regarding claims 5-7 and 15-17, Dazey and Cunningham teach the claim wherein related activities in the third pane are secondary activities that are related to the task, wherein the third pane is also for receiving user selection of one of the secondary activities, and wherein the user interface launches the secondary activity received from the user, by disclosing that the multiple control buttons are specific to the application [*column 4, lines 33-38*].

9. Claims 3 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dazey et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,415), Cunningham et al (Pub. No. US 2007/0129953 A1). and Examiner's statement of Official Notice.

Claim 3 (User Interface)

Claim 13 (Method)

9-1. Regarding claims 3 and 13, Dazey and Cunningham teach the invention substantially as claimed. See section 8-1. Although Dazey and Cunningham teach displaying a word processing document, a spreadsheet document, a spreadsheet workbook, or a database page [*Dazey, column 4, lines 11-15*], Dazey and Cunningham do not expressly teach the claim wherein the second pane displays only a read-only list of data. However, Examiner takes Official notice that it is common to open read-only files. This allows users to read files while preventing changes or modification to them. Since Dazey and Cunningham teach opening a variety of applications, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to open a read-only file since Examiner takes Official notice that opening read-only files is common. This would allow users to read files while preventing changes or modification to them.

10. Claims 8-10 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dazey et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,415), Cunningham et al (Pub. No. US 2007/0129953 A1), and Microsoft Excel 2000 (Copyright 1999) as shown by Microsoft Excel 2000 Screenshots, herein after Excel.

Claims 8-10 (User Interface)

Claims 18-20 (Method)

10-1. Regarding claims 8-10 and 18-20, Dazey and Cunningham teach the invention substantially as claimed. See section 8-3. Although Dazey and Cunningham teach that the multiple control buttons are specific to the application [*Dazey, column 4, lines 33-38*] and that the applications may include a word processing document, a spreadsheet document, a spreadsheet workbook, or a database page [*Dazey, column 4, lines 11-15*], Dazey does not expressly teach the claim wherein the secondary activities include links to structured data, unstructured data, and communication tools. Excel teaches a web tool bar [*figures 1, 2*] that allows users to link to web pages including structured data [*figure 3*], unstructured data [*figure 4*], and communication tools [*figure 5*]. Links can be provided in the form of buttons from the favorites menu as shown [*figure 6*]. This allows users to conveniently access data that may be useful for the application. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include links to structured data, unstructured data, and communication tools, as taught by Excel. This would allow users to conveniently access data that may be useful to the application.

Response to Arguments

11. The Examiner acknowledges the Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 12, 15, and 21 and the cancellation of claims 4 and 14. Regarding independent claims 1, 11, and 21, the Applicant alleges that Dazey et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,415), as described in the previous Office action, does not explicitly teach wherein at least some

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fields in the content form are pre-filled with data generated based on the particular task and the role of the user within an organization, as has been amended to the claims.

Examiner has therefore rejected independent claims 1, 11, and 21 under 35 U.S.C § 103 as being unpatentable over Dazey and Cunningham et al (Pub. No. US 2007/0129953 A1). See section 8-1.

Applicant states that dependent claims 2, 3, 5-10, 12, 13, and 15-20 recite all the limitations of the independent claims, and thus, are allowable in view of the remarks set forth regarding independently amended claims 1 and 11. However, as discussed above, Dazey and Cunningham are considered to teach claims 1 and 11, and consequently, claims 2, 3, 5-10, 12, 13, and 15-20 are rejected.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record on attached form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R § 111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar systems for a quick activity window.

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin H. Tan whose telephone number is 571-272-8595. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AHT

Assistant Examiner

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TADESSE HAILU
PRIMARY EXAMINER